

Who are we? What do we do? Why do we do it?

**Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services
Parent Information Network
February 2003**

PARENT INFORMATION NETWORK

The intent of the Parent Information Network is to provide parents with necessary information so they can more actively participate in their child's special education.

PINS

PARENT INFORMATION NETWORK SPECIALISTS

WHO ARE WE?

We are parent consultants on contract with the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS) to provide on-site and phone consultation, training, resources, information and referrals to support parents of special education students. PINS also assist educators and service providers to meet the needs of parents. They encourage schools to work with parents as equal partners. Look on the back panel for the PIN Specialist for the region in which you live.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- ☐ Work with appointed Parents Are Liaisons to Schools (PALS)
- ☐ Provide consultation services to parents, schools, agencies, and college classes
- ☐ Present free workshops and video sessions for parents, educators, college students, and service providers
- ☐ Assist in planning or presenting disability awareness programs
- ☐ Help in forming or strengthening parent support or advisory groups
- ☐ Provide free printed information from the PIN Clearinghouse and ADE/ESS
- ☐ Collaborate with associations and agencies which provide services to students with disabilities

PINS maintain a web site offering online documents, a list of workshops available, and important links to other parent or disability-related resources. **<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals/>**

PALS

PARENTS ARE LIAISONS TO SCHOOLS

WHO ARE WE?

We are parents of special education students who have been nominated by our school district or charter school to serve on a statewide steering committee for the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS).

WHAT DO WE DO?

- ☐ Work as a team with our special education director and PINS to improve parent involvement in special education through increasing availability of information and training for parents in their districts or charter schools.
- ☐ Provide feedback from local parents at state PALS meetings and update the Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services on local parent activities
- ☐ Keep parents informed about district activities for special education families
- ☐ Support district activities for special education families

WHY DO WE DO IT?

PALS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Recognizing the value of the contributions of both parents and professionals in setting the future direction of educational services for special education students in Arizona, Parents Are Liaisons with Schools (PALS) sets forth the following purposes:

- ☐ To serve as a vehicle for parents to provide their input on special education issues to the Arizona Department of Education in an effective, direct and unified manner.
- ☐ To serve as a vehicle for the Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services to provide information to all parents of special education students.
- ☐ To serve as a vehicle for parents of special education students to communicate with other parents throughout the state on common concerns.
- ☐ To encourage the development and utilization of parent networks at the local level and to improve local parent/professional partnerships at both direct-service and policy-formation levels.

OUTCOMES FROM PINS/PALS INITIATIVE

- ☐ Parents are more knowledgeable of their child's special education and better prepared to act as their child's best advocate.
- ☐ Parents and educators are equal partners in decision making.
- ☐ Parents and school staff have a point of contact for resources and referrals.
- ☐ ADE/ESS has a broader network of contacts available for disseminating parent-specific information and obtaining feedback from parents.
- ☐ Parents know how to find information they need to make decisions as part of the evaluation and IEP teams.
- ☐ Parents know where to find support and how to network to reach their goals.
- ☐ Parents have developed their leadership skills and moved on to policy-making councils and school boards.

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